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**John C. Worsley, FAIA
15321 NW Troon Drive
Portland, Oregon 97229-0915**

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June 1, 1999

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Hanford Remedial Action, EIS
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
MSIN HO -12
Richland, WA 99352

JUN 03 1999

DOE-RL / DIS

Re: Hanford Nuclear Reservation,

Gentlemen,

I fully support the Department of Energy's preferred alternative in the draft environmental impact statement and land use plan. It is excellent as far as it goes, but this would seem to be the time to provide protection for all of the environmentally sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. I would hope that the DoE would include the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, The Hanford Reach with its islands, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. With all of the concerns about restoring salmon to the Columbia, this is no time to be further degrading the watershed of the Columbia by tossing these lands into more agriculture. The taxpayers are now subsidizing a lot of Agriculture in the Northwest, and it makes no sense to add to the drain on the tax dollars. This is especially true, when that drain will also contribute to future expense in trying to restore salmon runs.

I believe that the proper action for the Department at this time would be to proceed without delay in making a separate Record of Decision to make the National Wildlife Refuge. It is essential that these valuable natural resources be protected now. Once they are lost to ill-advised uses, there is no turning back without enormous expense.

Sincerely,

John C. Worsley
cc Sen. Patty Murray